

Danaiyla Mendoza

(Student Government At-Large Senator, & Chair for External Affairs)

HB6659 Opposed

Feb. 15, 2023

Dear Appropriations Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Osten and Rep. Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee: I urge you to provide funding to the CSU's that fully accounts for the critical role we play in educating Connecticut's middle- and working classes and thus driving economic mobility and equity.

As a student leader, I am engaged with many students from all spectra's of life and have first hand experience engaging the population on CCSU's campus. I often see students in need of educators passionate in their field of study. Youth learn in the same fashion as they did in the home: by observation and imitation at best. We need passionate, active, and personable teachers. And that is something the students will fail to receive if there is reduced funding.

The CSUs are a unique force in the state. And we need to stop treating it as though it is solely an industry, and not the livelihood of many.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely, Danaiyla Mendoza

(Student Government At-Large Senator, & Chair for External Affairs)